

1 an elongate solid member;
2 radioactive seed elements;
3 said radioactive seed elements dispersed within said elongate solid member.

1 2. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said elongate solid member
2 is axially rigid and radially flexible.

1 3. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said elongate solid member
2 is sufficiently axially rigid to prevent jamming or collapsing while being pushed out of a needle.

1 4. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said elongate solid member
2 has sufficient radial flexibility to maintain locational accuracy relative to a tumor target as said
3 tumor target shrinks in size.

1 5. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein the thickness of said elongate
2 solid member around said radioactive seeds is sufficient to decrease normal tissue necrosis
3 from a high local dose of radiation.

1 6. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said elongate solid member
2 is longitudinally flexible.

1 7. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said elongate solid member
2 is impregnated with a hormone.

1 8. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said elongate solid member
2 is impregnated with a drug.

1 9. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said radioactive seed
2 elements are positioned at various intervals along the length of said elongate solid member.

1 10. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said radioactive seed
2 elements contain a hormone.

1 11. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said radioactive seed
2 elements contain a drug.

1 12. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said radioactive seeds
2 contain a compound or element that emits photonic radiation having a low energy and a short
3 half-life.

1 13. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said radioactive seeds
2 contain an isotope consisting of the group iodine 125, palladium 103, iridium 192, cesium 131,
3 gold 198 yttrium 90 and phosphorus 32.

1 14. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said elongate member is
2 composed of a bio-absorbable material.

1 15. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said elongate member is
2 composed of a bio-absorbable material absorbed by living tissue within about 70 to 120 days.

1 16. (Once Amended) The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said
2 elongate member is composed of a bio-absorbable material is selected from the group
3 consisting of polymers and copolymers of glycolide, lactide and polydiacaxanone.

1 17. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said elongate solid member
2 is echogenic.

1 18. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said elongate solid member
2 has air bubbles.

1 19. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said elongate solid member
2 is laterally flexible.

1 20. A therapeutic element comprising:
2 an elongate, axially rigid and radially flexible member;

1 radioactive seed elements;
2 said radioactive seed elements dispersed within said elongate member.

1 21. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 20 wherein said axially rigid and radially
2 flexible member is continuous.

1 22. A therapeutic element comprising:
2 an elongate axially rigid and radially flexible member;
3 radioactive seed elements;
4 hormone impregnated seed elements;
5 said radioactive seed elements and said hormone impregnated seed elements
6 dispersed within said elongate axially rigid and radially flexible member.

1 23. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 22 wherein said axially rigid and radially
2 flexible member is continuous.

1 24. A therapeutic element comprising:
2 an elongate axially rigid and radially flexible member;
3 radioactive seed elements;
4 drug impregnated seed elements;
5 said radioactive seed elements and said drug impregnated seed elements
6 dispersed within said elongate axially rigid and radially flexible member.

1 25. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 24 wherein said axially rigid and radially
2 flexible member is continuous.

1 26. A therapeutic element comprising;
2 an elongate, axially rigid and radially flexible member;
3 one of a hormone and a drug;
4 said one of hormone and said drug implanted in the elongate axially rigid and
5 radially flexible member.

1 27. (Once Amended) The therapeutic element set forth in claim 26 wherein said one
2 of a hormone and a drug is dispersed along the length of said elongate, axially rigid and radially
3 flexible member.

1 28. A therapeutic element comprising:
2 an elongate axially rigid member;
3 said elongate axially rigid member not having sufficient rigidity to be driven into
4 a tumor without deflection;
5 radioactive seed elements;
 said radioactive seed elements dispersed within said elongate solid member.

1 29. A brachytherapy device comprising:

1 a therapeutic element, including an elongate, axially rigid and radially flexible
2 member;
3 a needle with a lumen;
4 a plug in the end of said needle;
5 wherein said therapeutic element is positioned inside said lumen of said needle.

1 30. The brachytherapy device set forth in claim 29 wherein said elongate, axially rigid
2 and radially flexible member is continuous.

1 31. The brachytherapy device set forth in claim 29 wherein said elongate solid
2 member is a close fit to the needle lumen.

1 32. The brachytherapy device set forth in claim 29 wherein the fit between said
2 elongate solid member and said needle prevents collapse of said therapeutic element as said
3 therapeutic element is passed through said needle.

1 33. The brachytherapy device set forth in claim 29 wherein said plug is bio-
2 compatible.

1 34. A method for making a therapeutic element comprising, in any order:
2 dispersing radioactive seed elements within a molding cavity; and
3 filling the molding cavity with a bio-absorbable polymer;

1 35. The method for making a therapeutic element set forth in claim 34 wherein said
2 molding cavity is shaped to the desired final dimensions of said therapeutic element.

1 36. The method for making a therapeutic element set forth in claim 34 wherein said
2 molding cavity spaces said radioactive seeds at appropriate intervals.

1 37. The method for making a therapeutic element set forth in claim 34 wherein said
2 polymer is introduced into said mold at a temperature greater than the melt point of said
3 polymer.

1 38. The method for making a therapeutic element set forth in claim 34 wherein said
2 polymer surrounds said radioactive seeds.

1 39. The method for making a therapeutic element set forth in claim 34 wherein said
2 polymer fills the spaces between said seeds.

1 40. The method for making a therapeutic element set forth in claim 34 wherein said
2 bio-absorbable polymer is impregnated with a hormone.

1 41. The method for making a therapeutic element set forth in claim 34 wherein said
2 bio-absorbable polymer is impregnated with a drug.

1 42. A method of brachytherapy comprising:

2 loading a needle with a therapeutic device;

3 inserting said needle into the therapeutic site into the most distal location from the
4 insertion point;

5 inserting a stylet into said needle;

6 gradually pulling on said needle while maintaining the stylet stationary relative to
7 the axial movement of said needle;

8 and dispensing said therapeutic device.

1 43. The method of brachytherapy set forth in claim 42 wherein the overall diameter
2 of said therapeutic element is sufficient to prevent collapse within the needle lumen.

1 44. The method of claim 43 wherein said therapeutic device is an elongated solid
2 member having spaced radioactive seeds.

1 45. The method of claim 43 wherein said therapeutic device is an elongated axially
2 rigid and radially flexible member having spaced apart radioactive seeds.

1 46. The method of claim 43 wherein said therapeutic device is an elongated member
2 formed of a bio-absorbable material into which are positioned a plurality of spaced apart
3 radioactive seeds.

1 47. The method of claim 43 wherein said therapeutic device is an elongated member
2 is comprised of a plurality of spaced apart radioactive seeds which are encapsulated in a bio-
3 absorbable material.

1 48. The method of claim 47 wherein said bio-absorbable material is a polymer.

1 49. (Once Amended) The therapeutic element of claim 1 wherein said member has
2 a durometer in the range of about 20 to about 80.

1 50. (Once Amended) The therapeutic element of claim 1 wherein said member has
2 a durometer in the range of about 20 to about 40.

1 51. (Once Amended) The therapeutic element of claim 20 wherein said member has
2 a durometer in the range of about 20 to about 80.

1 52. (Once Amended) The therapeutic element of claim 20 wherein said member has
2 a durometer in the range of about 20 to about 40.

1 53. (Once Amended) The therapeutic element of claim 28 wherein said member has
2 a durometer in the range of about 20 to about 80.

1 54. (Once Amended) The therapeutic element of claim 28 wherein said member has
2 a durometer in the range of about 20 to about 40.

1 55. A prescription method of treating tissue comprising the steps of:
2 first creating a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, which treatment plan
3 specifies the a number and spacing of treatment seeds to be provided in a strand; and
4 second creating a treatment strand by molding treatment seeds in a material.

1 56. The method of claim 55 wherein:
2 said first creating step is performed by a person treating a patient; and
3 said second creating step is performed by an entity that fills prescriptions by forming the
4 strand, which entity fills prescriptions from a plurality of patients.

1 57. The method of claim 55 wherein:
2 wherein said first creating step specifies radioactive seeds and optimal spacings
3 between each pair of seeds; and
4 wherein said second creating step creates strands to the specified optima spacings
5 prescribed.

1 58. The method of claim 57 wherein:
2 said second creating step is performed positioning radioactive seeds in a mold at the
3 optimal spaces and pouring in a material to mold the radioactive seeds in place.

1 59. The method of claim 58 wherein:
2 said material that is poured is a bio-absorbable material.

1 60. The method of claim 59 wherein:
2 said material that is poured in is a polymer material.

1 61. The method of claim 55 wherein:
2 said first creating step uses imaging devices for creating a treatment plan.

1 62. The method of claim 55 including:
2 receiving said treatment strand and implanting the treatment strand adjacent to the tissue
3 to be treated.

1 63. The method of claim 55 including the step of using heated treatment seeds.

1 64. The method of claim 42 including the step of using heated treatment seeds.

1 65. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 1 wherein said elongated member is
2 composed of a bio-absorbable material which is absorbed when the half-life of the radioactive
3 seed elements is reached.

1 66. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 20 wherein said elongated member is
2 composed of a bio-absorbable material that is absorbed when the half-life of the radioactive
3 seed elements is reached.

1 67. The therapeutic element set forth in claim 28 wherein said elongated member is
2 composed of a bio-absorbable material that is absorbed when the half-life of the radioactive
3 seed elements is reached.

1 68. The therapeutic element of claim 1 wherein said therapeutic element is steam
2 sterilizable.

1 69. The therapeutic element of claim 20 wherein said therapeutic element is steam
2 sterilizable.

1 70. The therapeutic element of claim 22 wherein said therapeutic element is steam
2 sterilizable.

1 71. The therapeutic element of claim 24 wherein said therapeutic element is steam
2 sterilizable.

1 72. The method of claim 42 wherein the therapeutic device is steam sterilized prior
2 to usage.

1 73. The therapeutic element of claim 1 wherein the radioactive seed element is bio-
2 absorbable.

1 74. The therapeutic element of claim 20 wherein the radioactive seed element is bio-
2 absorbable.

1 75. The therapeutic element of claim 1 wherein the radioactive seed element also
2 contains a drug and wherein the seed element is bio-absorbable.

1 76. The therapeutic element of claim 20 wherein the radioactive seed element also
2 contains a drug and wherein the seed element is bio-absorbable.

1 77. The therapeutic element of claim 26 wherein said one of said hormone and said
2 drug is encapsulated in a biodegradable seed.

1 78. The therapeutic element of claim 26 wherein said one of said hormone and said
2 drug is encapsulated in a biodegradable seed along with radioactive elements.